

# Women of Europe

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**MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**8 MARCH 1987**

It has been thirty years since the Treaty of Rome established the principle of equal rights for men and women in the working world. What we accept as a self-evident principle today was regarded as a remarkable step forward thirty years ago. The European Community has thus played its part in consolidating a social model that incorporated major advances in the struggle for human rights. For the ordinary men and women of Europe, this recognition of equal rights was a sign that the fine new venture being launched would have a direct, practical impact on their social and working lives.

Several Community directives on equality have caused Member States to adapt their laws, and men and women now enjoy equal rights in matters of pay, employment, training, working conditions and social security, whether they are in paid employment or whether they are self-employed.

There is obviously still a great deal to be done before complete equality in status and opportunities is achieved, but I should like to express to all the women of Europe our resolve to uphold respect for the principle of equality and encourage any scheme that may help to promote it.

May International Women's Day help to advance a cause that has already helped to change the face of modern society.

Jacques DELORS

**AN IMPORTANT MONTH FOR WOMEN AND FOR EUROPE: 8 - 25 MARCH**

On 25 March 1957, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands signed the Treaties of Rome establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). Together with the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC 1951), these treaties make up the charter of the European Community. They are complemented by a convention on an association between the Common Market and former African colonies.

"I have never wondered whether the Common Market and Euratom treaties could have been different or better - I believe that they were in line with what was then feasible and embodied the wisdom of the time in which they were conceived. ... If experience has shown that not enough decision-making has been transferred from national to European level, it is up to us today to complete what yesterday's Europeans dared not suggest to the hesitant politicians."  
Jean Monnet

We still face this challenge today: European Commission President Jacques Delors has outlined the policies that will guide the Europe of tomorrow (see page 6).

Popular support is essential if this plan for a new society is to become reality, and women must shoulder their share.

**International Women's Day** (8 March) was celebrated with special gusto this year. The "European" tinge that often colours events and celebrations to mark the day was particularly noticeable: only two weeks later - on 25 March - Europe was to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome and the birth of the European Community.

As it would be quite impossible to describe the multitude of events, we shall confine ourselves to a few brief words on celebrations brought to our notice. The list given here is certainly not exhaustive (see also European Parliament, page 13).

**In Italy**, International Women's Day was celebrated widely with parades, marches, slogans, conferences and theatrical performances. Everyone was bedecked with mimosa, the spring flower chosen by women as the symbol of Women's Day. The press was full of the Day and reviews of women's status - including the Vatican newspaper *l'Osservatore Romano*. Popular TV shows gathered women from all walks of life to mark the occasion. In Rome, the National Committee for Parity between Men and Women and the Prime Minister's office promoted a European conference on "Thirty years of Europe and the way forward for women", organized and chaired by Ivanka Corti.

Speaking at the conference, European Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana pointed to the cultural changes wrought in European societies by Community activities and said that women had made a contribution to these changes. "Culture" became the keyword of the day from that point on. Elena Marinucci, who chairs the National Committee, saw cultural pressure and "the education of conscience" as the major achievements of the European Community's efforts combined with women's initiative. MEP Maria Luisa Cassanmagnano Cerretti spoke of the essential role of women in changing societies in developing countries and the European Community's responsibilities in this field as a signatory of the Lomé Convention. MEP Lalla Trupia gave a comprehensive account of the pressure exerted by the European Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights and the force of its inspiration; Community directives inspired and promoted by the Committee have been an essential "cultural stimulus" to

legislative action in the Member States. Since culture spreads together with information, Fausta Deshormes La Valle spoke of the task undertaken by Women of Europe during its ten years of work for women and Europe. Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, a member of the Economic and Social Affairs Committee, and Margherita Barnabei, Vice-President of the Italian section of the European Movement, commented on the absence of women in top-level posts, particularly in positions of power.

Premier Bettino Craxi sent a message stressing that, although women's status had improved over the past few years, much remained to be done.

**At a conference in Brussels**, the Dutch- and French-speaking sections of the National Council of Belgian Women (Nationale Vrouwen Raad and Conseil National des Femmes Belges) placed emphasis on the need for Belgian women to be vigilant and on persisting discriminations and the steps to be taken. Secretary of State for Social Emancipation Miet Smet described current schemes and their initial results.

The association Femmes contre la crise organized a whole series of events to mark 8 March: debates, concerts, plays, an excellent exhibition entitled "150 ans de féminisme vu par l'image" (150 years of feminism in pictures), meetings and a European stand (with the help of the Women's Information Service) with information on women's political activities and potential. The events attracted a young, enthusiastic crowd of over 1,000.

Also in Brussels, Jeunesse Ouvrière Chrétienne celebrated International Women's Day with an international women workers' day and produced a "protest chart" describing the position of young women workers in Europe and their problems with unemployment, work, leisure, sex and their families.

**In Germany**, President of the National Council of German Women (Deutscher Frauenrat) Irmgard Blattel and members of the Executive Committee of the German Trade Union Federation (Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund) reminded women working within the unions and in the workplace of how much still has to be done to improve women's lot. Only 0.4% of working women are at managerial level. Irmgard Blattel did say, however, that there were signs of progress and mentioned the scheme to promote women in the IG Metall union (see Women of Europe 48).

**In Paris**, over 2,000 members of the women's section of the French Workers' Confederation (Actuelles Confédération Française des Travailleurs) attended a meeting at the Cirque d'Hiver on 6-7 March. They expressed their strong belief in Europe and its political structure, as well as the role of European institutions in promoting equal rights. Documentation was available at a "Women of Europe" information stand.

**In Scotland**, a day of women's films was put on by the Film House in Edinburgh and, in Glasgow, the women's committee of the Scottish section of the TUC demonstrated its solidarity with women sacked by Rupert Murdoch.

The March issue of Our Times, edited by Rita Stevenson Lockhart printed messages sent in by women, including one from a Chinese woman (4 Broomfield Gardens, Ayr KA7 2SR).

Other events centred on the themes of women and health, and the struggle against apartheid.

**In Dublin**, an attractive poster invited women to come together to celebrate 8 March at a Women's Information Day.

**T H E C H A N G I N G  
E U R O P E A N C O M M U N I T Y**

**NEW FRONTIERS FOR EUROPE**

The European Commission programme for 1987 presented by President Jacques Delors centres on two key ideas: more solidarity and greater discipline, for the good of all Europeans.

The Commission's first task will be to make a "smash hit" of the Single European Act (the first step towards a "reform" of European institutions), which comes into force one year after the accession of Spain and Portugal. The Community is thus experiencing two of the most significant changes since it was first established: enlargement means that it is all the more vital to heed the calls made over past years to strengthen Europe's institutional structures. Whether the provisions of the Act are translated into practical action will depend on the creation of common economic ground, stronger economic growth, smoother running of institutions, greater budgetary discipline and a stable common external policy.

President Delors claims that Europe will break new frontiers if certain concrete reforms are carried out. These include the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (though it should respect Europe's "rural countenance"), policies having a real economic impact and the stable provision of adequate financial resources. We must also strengthen what Jacques Delors calls the "foundation for Europe's new impetus" by establishing a wider common market, developing the European Monetary System and involving the dramatis personae of social and economic life in a cooperative strategy of growth.

The People's Europe must become a reality, giving all Europeans (including young people - ERASMUS and COMETT programmes) true freedom of movement. Member States must cooperate on health matters (including the campaign against AIDS and cancer) and cultural affairs, particularly in the field of television.

In its progress towards a true "European society", however, Europe must not forget its responsibilities towards the rest of the world if it is to play a part in solving the problems of under-development and ensuring peace.

**YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

The fourth environment action programme adopted by the European Commission in September 1986 reflects its belief that the protection of the environment is moving into a whole new phase where it will no longer be seen as a separate policy but will be an integral part of economic and social policies.

The continuing deterioration of the natural environment and pollution of the sea, inland waters and the atmosphere all call for radical measures and the Commission intends to issue a statement on its overall strategy to combat water and air pollution and reduce the risks involved in developments in the field of biotechnology. The Commission is also concerned about the problems of nuclear energy and waste and intends to extend its programme on waste disposal technology.

Since 1973, the European Community has adopted 31 directives on the environment and some 50 texts to harmonize legislation within the Member States - a grand total of more than 80 documents concerning the environment.

**To celebrate the Year of the Environment**, Women of Europe is to be printed on recycled paper in the future.

We should like to take this opportunity to point out that the modest, down-to-earth presentation of our newsletter, which has been criticized by publication experts, was chosen deliberately as it was felt to be in keeping with the feelings of our readers (particularly women), who see Women of Europe as a working paper and source of information.

### **Europe against cancer: a Community action programme**

Acting on the intentions expressed during the latest European Council meetings, the European Commission has been working with a committee of cancer specialists to draw up a programme to prove that cancer does not have to be fatal.

The programme will concentrate on prevention: anti-smoking campaigns and measures to improve people's diet and provide protection against cancer-producing agents such as tobacco, alcohol, radioactivity, viral infections and chemical substances. Regular check-ups and early diagnosis are particularly useful as preventive measures in the struggle against the types of cancer suffered by women (e.g. cancer of the uterus and breast cancer). The Commission is to look into the policies adopted in the Member States and consider how to set up a system to detect and diagnose these types of cancer in their early stages. It also intends to draft "ten European commandments against cancer", written in simple language that can be easily understood by anyone.

The programme will also be concerned with information and will be part of European Year Of Information on Cancer in 1989. The Commission plans to draw up a list of private organizations involved in the struggle against cancer in Europe, contribute to television programmes on the subject and organize a Eurobarometer survey of Europeans' attitude towards cancer.

The Commission also intends to make proposals as to the minimum content of university training programmes and promote student exchanges and the harmonization of educational material.

### **The People's Europe: reactions, suggestions and happenings**

According to Eurobarometer n° 26 of December 1986 (X/21/87 - Directorate-General for Information, Communications and Cultural Affairs, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels), Europeans are generally in favour of the People's Europe and almost one in five (19%) "often" feel they are citizens of Europe as well as of their own country. This feeling is strong (24%-27%) in Greece, Luxembourg and France but far less pronounced amongst the Danish, Irish and particularly the British. The feeling of belonging to Europe increases with the individual's level of education and leadership abilities.

Questioned on the European flag, 54% of Europeans thought it a good idea (although only 39% knew that the flag has twelve gold stars on a blue background) and an even higher percentage were in favour of the right of nationals of one Member State to reside in another - 74%, with higher percentages in Ireland, Spain and Portugal. In no Member State was there a majority of citizens against this right of residence.

Feelings are less black-and-white when it comes to the right of European citizens to vote at local elections in their country of residence - 62% of all Europeans were in favour of this right, though the majority in Denmark and Luxembourg was against..

### A "European" history book for the 1987/88 school year

Speaking at the university Institute of Florence, European Commission President Jacques Delors announced that teachers in the twelve Member States would be able to use a "European" history textbook from the autumn term 1987. The book has been compiled by Professor Duroselle with the help of the European Commission. It will not be compulsory but Mr Delors felt sure that education ministers in the Member States would be encouraging the use of the new textbook.

### European Parliament at the service of ordinary citizens

Europeans may not be aware of it, but they all have the right to apply to the petitions committee chaired by Mr Chanterie (EPP, Belgium) if they want to make a direct complaint to European Parliament about discrimination or the wrongful application of European law. In the absence of an official European Ombudsman, the committee will also be assuming that role in an attempt to bring Europe into closer touch with ordinary citizens.

**Useful address:** European Parliament, 97/113 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels.

An original and effective initiative was launched by the French-language Belgian television (RTBF) on 2 February this year: **Monsieur Bon Droit Européen**, a monthly programme providing information on laws within the Community, supplemented by a bulletin distributed throughout the twelve Member States and supported by the European Commission and the Savings Bank Group of the European Community. The first programme (and its supplementary material) dealt with sexual equality (the bulletin explained that sexual equality is not merely a question of equal pay but also of equal treatment, and described what steps anyone could take who feels that he/she has been discriminated against). It has been followed by programmes on workers' freedom of movement and the supremacy of European law over national legislation. The Savings Bank Group is to ensure that bulletins are translated into all the Community languages and distributed throughout the Member States.

**Useful addresses:** RTBF, 52 boulevard Auguste Reyers, 1040 Brussels  
Savings Banks Group of the European Economic Community  
92-94 square Plasky, 1040 Brussels

The President of the World Medical Organization, Dr Joseph Farber, recently presented European Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana, who is responsible for the People's Europe, with a copy of his **European Guide to Medical Ethics**. Covering subjects such as contraception, abortion, transplants and euthanasia, it was unanimously adopted by the recent conference of the Order of Medical Practitioners and associated organizations, bringing together medical disciplinary bodies from the twelve Member States. Dr Farber has been invited to speak at a 1987 conference on the "charter of human rights", whose agenda is to include medical issues.



### **Impatient Europeans**

Europeans are getting impatient: 55% of them think that Europe is progressing too slowly and 80% would like to see it forge ahead as fast as possible. This (if the "don't knows" are discounted) is the verdict reached by the December 1986 Eurobarometer n° 26.

Eight out of ten Europeans (80%) are in favour of European unification and fewer than one in ten (9%) against - this means that attitudes have barely changed over the thirteen years of Eurobarometer surveys.

Eurobarometer n° 26 is the last survey to be conducted under the direction of the Commission's special adviser Jacques René Rabier, who joined the Commission in 1953 and was Director-General for Information from 1970 to 1983. He was the first person to suggest plans for the gathering and provision of information specifically on what women think. People who have worked with him will always remember his generosity, creativity and commitment. This "exceptional man" (as Carlo Ripa di Meana described him on wishing him farewell on behalf of the European Commission) will continue to put his imagination and conviction at the service of Europe.

Another great European is leaving to take up a post as president of the European University Institute of Florence: Emile Noel. As Secretary-General to the European Commission since its creation, he has been an exemplary public servant and a true incarnation of the Commission's dignity and reputation. In 1982, European civil servants launched the Emile Noel Prize for outstanding efforts designed to revitalize interest in Europe, particularly amongst young people. The prize, which is awarded annually, is worth ECU 20,000. Entries for 1987 can be sent to Mr Jean Denis, 13 rue Follereau, Strassen, Luxembourg. Don't forget - women and girls can enter for the prize too!

### **Equality: work in progress, plans and problems**

The second volume of papers give at the European conference in 1985, organized by the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve and the European Commission, has been published in English and French by Presses Universitaires de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve. Compiled by Professor Michel Verwilghen, this second volume assesses national situations, including Spain and Portugal which were not members of the Community at the time of the conference.

The Commission's Bureau for Questions regarding Employment and Equal Treatment for Women (200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels) has launched four studies on sexual harassment, the impact of collective labour agreements relating to new technologies on the employment of women, quotas for positive action and women workers. The Commission also intends to draft a report on protective legislation for women and has already published a practical report on positive actions and the findings of a survey (in ten Member States) of women working in the voluntary sector. Details of these two reports were given in Women of Europe n° 48.

Within the Commission itself, equal opportunities are still not a reality: a degree of sexual segregation persists within the various job categories and directorates-general. These are the initial conclusions reached in research

conducted by three experts - Monique Chalude, Robin Chater and Jacqueline Laufer - who were asked by the European Commission's Joint Committee on Equal Opportunities to study equal opportunities among Commission personnel. It is now up to the Joint Committee to examine the report and draw up a positive action programme.

The report recommends the introduction of measures to permit the implementation of positive actions and proposes practical ways of ridding management practices and procedures of bias. Its authors stress that the aim of their recommendations is to improve personnel management and enable the Commission to optimize the use of its human resources.

President of the European Commission Jacques Delors and Vice-President Henning Christophersen sent a message to staff on 8 March to mark International Women's Day and confirm their wish to promote equal opportunities within the Commission:

"Our aim is to ensure that this institution benefits from the human resources at its disposal, recognizes and develops the potential of its men and women employees and encourages a good balance between women and men in all posts and at every level within the Commission."

The Directorate-General for Personnel and Administration recently appointed Mariadelaide Franchi as mediator. She will take over from Julien de Groote, who has filled the post since it was created in 1977.

#### **Ten posters on the European Community and women now available in German, Spanish and Portuguese**

The posters have been produced by the European Commission's Women's Information Service and are available to organizations for their meetings, exhibitions, etc. Each poster covers a specific theme: "who are we?" (the numbers of women in and out of work and the total number of women in Europe), "women in schools and training" (all too often women attend short training courses in traditional female skills), "women and work" ("if you don't want to be a reserve army, do something about it!" proclaims the poster), "what the European Community is doing for women" (equal opportunities are a Community responsibility), "the action programme for women", "the importance of being informed" (by, for example, reading *Women of Europe*), "European Parliament and women", and "the institutional structure of the Community". Plus a poster listing important addresses for women. The new posters are all available from the Commission's Information Offices in Bonn, Madrid and Lisbon (see addresses on back cover).

#### **University Europe**

The European Commission recently published its annual programme of financial aid for cooperation among higher education establishments, amounting to some ECU 2.2 million (or 660 grants) for the academic year 1986/87.

The action programme, launched ten years ago, has helped to create a network of more than 500 universities offering a number of joint European university programmes. The Community's most recent members, Spain and Portugal, have immediately set to work on negotiations to join the network.

The European Commission's programme centres on two main themes:

- . joint study programmes, whose number has been rising since 1977 (67 applications received and 28 grants awarded in 1977, as against 475 applications and 272 grants in 1986), used mainly by France (47.5% up to 1985/86) and Germany (46%). The study programmes cover a wide range of fields, the most popular being political and social science, economics and history.
- . short study visits for people working in higher education. Since 1977, 1,127 grants have been awarded and 4,429 applications received. Applications for study visit grants should be sent to the Office for Educational Cooperation, 51 rue de la Concorde, 1050 Brussels.

Mobility, a prerequisite to educational cooperation, is the goal sought by the Commission's ERASMUS programme, which is to receive funding to the tune of ECU 175 million for the first three years (1987-1989). It will concentrate on four main lines of action:

- . the creation and use of a European network of cooperation among universities;
- . direct financial support for students following a period of study in a university in a Member State other than their own;
- . greater academic recognition of diplomas gained and study periods spent in another Member State;
- . complementary activities (e.g. intensive courses and conferences).

#### **Women and television**

The Steering Committee set up by the European Commission after the conference on women in the media (Brussels, May 1985) has been pressing on with its work. During its latest meeting in late January, the Committee discussed Margaret Gallagher's working paper on trends in employment and recruitment, the promotion of equal opportunities and recent initiatives launched by national bodies.

The Committee intends to concentrate on improving working conditions and extending the "television" survey to cover public radio.

**Useful address:** Bureau for Questions regarding Employment and Equal Opportunities for Women, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels.

#### **Women and development**

Replying to Italian Communist Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano's question on women's role in the development process in Zimbabwe (which has a law on sexual equality), European Commissioner for Development Lorenzo Natali confirmed that the Commission saw women's participation in development as an important criterion in identifying and evaluating Community activities in Zimbabwe. The Commission has already provided funding of ECU 2,900,000 for a development project concerning the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, aimed mainly at women in an area of heavy male migration.

Lorenzo Natali also took part in the discussion of Kenyan Rose Waruhiu's report on women, demography and development at the recent meeting of the ACP-EEC Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Tanzania, where he acknowledged that birth control could not be imposed by force. If, as the author of the report justifiably demands, the idea of family planning is to be accepted in developing countries, it is essential to improve women's status, particularly as regards equal opportunities in education and training and their full participation in social life.

<b>EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT</b>
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**January Session**      European Parliament has a new President: British Conservative Sir Henry Plumb (who was elevated to the peerage in February) has been appointed to replace Pierre Pflimlin. Elected during Parliament's first session this year with just a few votes' lead over the Spanish Socialist candidate Enrique Baron, Sir Henry said that he hoped all MEPs would support his presidency.

Parliament also elected its Vice-Presidents during the January session, with disappointing results for women: French Socialist Nicole Péry is the only woman among the fourteen Vice-Presidents. There were three women Vice-Presidents in 1984: Nicole Péry, Italian Christian Democrat Maria Luisa Cassanmagnano Cerretti and British Conservative Lady Elles.

Lady Elles stood for the leadership of the European Democratic Group (Conservatives) but was beaten by Christopher Prout.

Simone Veil, however, has been re-elected to the chair of the Liberal, Democratic and Reform Group. The Rainbow Group, with its unique four-chair system, now has only one chairwoman - Danish MEP Else Hammerich. German MEP Brigitte Heinrich was not re-elected as one of the four.

**The number of women chairing committees has also fallen**, despite the huge number of messages sent by women's associations to the President of European Parliament calling for the continuing and growing presence of women as heads of committees.

In 1984, six of the seventeen parliamentary committees were chaired by women:

The Committee on External Economic Relations was chaired by British Conservative Dame Shelagh Roberts; the Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights Committee by French Socialist Marie-Claude Vayssade; the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection by German Socialist Beate Weber; the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport by Winifred Ewing (Scotland, ERDA); the Development and Cooperation Committee by German Socialist Katharina Focke, and the Committee on Women's Rights by German Christian Democrat Marlene Lenz. Dutch Socialist Ien van den Heuvel chaired the Sub-Committee on Human Rights.

Beate Weber is still chairing the Environment Committee, Dutch Socialist Hedy d'Ancona has succeeded Marlene Lenz on the Committee on Women's Rights, and the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport is now chaired by Eileen Lemass (Ireland, ERDA).

<p>Outside Parliament, President Sir Henry Plumb received the "mothers of Algiers", French and British women who have for years been fighting for the right of regular access to their children, taken back to Algeria by their Algerian fathers. He also met some of the children and their fathers, who had travelled from Algiers. Welcomed by Belgian Socialist and mediator Anne Marie Lizin, the children were able to meet their mothers, who had organized a march from Paris to Strasbourg and Geneva.</p>
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The parents managed to reach private agreements on regular visits, although these will have to be turned into formal arrangements to ensure that they are complied with. Many more families could benefit from formal arrangements.

Sir Henry Plumb intends to write to Foreign Affairs Ministers in the Member States, asking them to support Anne Marie Lizin's request that the problem is included on the agenda of the next meeting of the UN Committee on Human Rights in Geneva, as part of the debate on children's rights.

**February Session** During the February session, European Parliament adopted a resolution on the repression of women in Chile. Of 600 political prisoners in Chile, 50 are women (many of whom were pregnant when arrested), who are detained in various prisons throughout the country. Two of them have been sentenced to death by a military tribunal; many have been awaiting a final sentence for several years, whilst others have been given heavy sentences of 19-20 years imprisonment. Thousands of other women have been forced to leave the country to save their own and their families' lives, while others have been deported and can no longer live in their own country.

European Parliament has condemned the military dictatorship in Chile and expressed support for organizations in which women play a leading role. It is demanding that the death sentences on political prisoners Cecilia Padrihan and Miriam Ortega be lifted and the long prison sentences on Arinda Ojeda, Viviana Herrera, Rita Pena and Aida Baeza be commuted and replaced by extradition orders. Parliament is also calling for the release of imprisoned mothers and women political prisoners who are old or in ill health.

Speaking on International Women's Day on 8 March, Marie-Claude Vayssade voiced the feelings of women members of European Parliament's Socialist Group when she declared that "women's rights are coming under brutal and continuous attack. The problems of poverty, unemployment and housing affecting women and the exploitation of underpaid women workers are widening the financial gap between men and women. Within the European Community, the policies adopted by right-wing governments are worsening women's situation and attempting to keep them off the job market". Women's rights are human rights and Socialist MEPs will continue to fight for true equality.

### European Parliament? What's that?

According to Eurobarometer n° 26 of December 1986, only 43% of Europeans know anything about European Parliament, a sharp drop since the spring of 1984, just before the parliamentary elections, when 75% said that they had read or heard about it in the press or on the radio or television. Of those who are aware of the existence of a European Parliament, only 36% have a "generally favourable impression" (though the percentage climbs to 50% or higher in Spain, Portugal and Italy). Parliament's role is seen as being "very important" by just 11% of Europeans, "important" by 38% and "of little importance" by 26%. Germany is the only Member State where most of the interviewees said that European Parliament had a small or non-existent role to play.

A good way of learning more about European Parliament is to consult the "data sheets" on the progress of European integration, describing Parliament's major activities between July 1985 and June 1986. Data sheet 5 is devoted to Community actions in favour of women.

**Useful address:** Directorate-General for Studies of European Parliament,  
Centre Européen du Kirchberg, Luxembourg.

<b>COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS</b>
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The Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights, now chaired by Dutch Socialist Hedy d'Ancona, recently published a complete list of reports and opinions issued since its formation. It has produced reports on positive actions in favour of women, equal treatment in taxation, equal opportunities, violence against women, the outcome of the Nairobi Conference, problems faced by women as a result of the restructuring of the labour market, women's status and new technology, family and elderly persons' allowances, creches and nurseries, single-parent families, long-term unemployment, the 1985, 1986 and 1987 budgets, management guidelines for the European Social Fund, International Youth Year, the ill treatment of children and elderly persons, family policy, the position of black women in South Africa, genetic engineering and surrogate motherhood.

It has also published a list of work in progress, which includes reports on women and the media, women civil servants in Community institutions, discrimination in immigration laws, the vocational rehabilitation of women, the third directive on social security, wives in farming and family concerns, sex equality in education and training, women's rights in the world of sport, women's cooperatives, women and employment, the status of partners in the liberal professions, respect of contracts, the rights of women prisoners, the rights of women in labour, childcare, adoption and women's rights in Chile.

The lists show the extent and variety of work undertaken by the Committee, which is concerned with every aspect of women's lives. Anyone wishing to obtain copies of the reports or offer suggestions or information (which members of the Committee are always happy to receive) should write to:

2 avenue Vassilis Sophias  
ATHENS

12 In der Raste  
5300 BONN 1

97-113 rue Belliard  
1040 BRUSSELS

Vijverhof, 37 Buitenhof  
2513 THE HAGUE

Børsen  
1217 COPENHAGEN

43 Molesworth Street  
DUBLIN

Centre Européen du Kirchberg  
LUXEMBOURG

2 Queen Anne's Gate  
LONDON SW1H 9AA

288 boulevard St. Germain  
75007 PARIS

29 via Poli  
ROME

35 rua do Sacramento  
LISBON

41 calle de Serrano  
MADRID

During its meeting on 26-7 February, the Committee received thirty women farmers from the twelve Member States, led by the president of the women's committee of COPA, the Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the European Community, Belgian MEP Mme Boeraeve. Commenting on the directive on spouses helping in farming and family concerns, adopted on 11 December 1986 (see Women of Europe n° 48), Mme Boeraeve stressed the impact on the poorer Member States and called for practical application of the principle of equality and the launching of information and awareness campaigns aimed at women farmers. She said that consideration should be given to possible measures concerning parental leave, protection of mothers and children and recognition of the work done by the spouse on family farms. She also stated that COPA's women's committee is planning to hold a seminar on the legal status of farming to assess the work of women farmers.

Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights have voiced criticisms of the directive, which offers no solution to problems of protecting mothers and children or women farmers' right to social security benefits. The Committee is to draft an analysis of the directive.

**COUNTRY TO COUNTRY:****FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS****AND MILITANT ACTIVITIES****B E L G I U M****Women's status: an advisory committee on social emancipation**

The Parliamentary Lower House has amended its procedural rules to set up an advisory committee on women's emancipation. The committee's task will be "to give, on its own initiative or when requested by the Lower House or one of its committees, advice on social emancipation, within a period set by the body concerned with the question to which the advice relates".

The rule of proportional representation will be strictly followed in appointing members of the Committee; it will be chaired by a woman. Each of the groups which is represented on committees and has women members in Parliament will have at least one member on the advisory committee. Each group not represented on committees will send a "woman observer" from among its members.

**Useful address:** Chambre des Représentants,  
1 place de la Nation, 1000 Brussels.

**The Belgian Women's Liaison Committee** (Comité de Liaison des Femmes) has written to President Delors protesting that the Belgian Government's latest economic measures are in breach of Community directives on equality.

In his reply, Jacques Delors thanked them for their "invaluable assistance" in helping the European Commission to see that Community laws are applied. He assured them that the Commission "is bent on ensuring respect of Community law".

**Useful address:** Comité de Liaison des Femmes,  
1/A place Quetelet, 1030 Brussels.

This is a love story, claims the preface to "Emilienne", the transcript of conversations between Emilienne Brunfaut (who died last January) and Belgian MEP Anne-Marie Lizin. In their "book for four hands" these two Socialists, internationalists and feminists describe their hopes, beliefs and disappointments. It can be obtained from Archives de Wallonie Editions, 19 rue Huart-Chapel, 6000 Charleroi.

The adoption of the directive on family helpers (ref. 86/613/EEC) by the Council of Ministers of the European Community has been welcomed by the Belgian Association of Doctors' Spouses (Association des Conjoints-Aidants de Médecins - ASCAM), which has been fighting for official recognition of spouses' work for some six years. In a letter to members of the Association, President Annie Morsa writes that "our directive has been adopted; our hopes have become a reality sanctioned by Europe". She claims, however, that the directive is less coherent than the Association had hoped.

**Useful address:** ASCAM, 30 rue d'Arquet, 5000 Namur.

A major development for housewives: **job training will no longer be reserved for people eligible for full unemployment benefit** but will be available to housewives, who will have the right to attend free courses organized or approved by the National Employment Board (Office National de l'Emploi - ONEM). The Belgian Housewives' Association (Association des Femmes au Foyer) has been fighting for this right since 1980.

**Useful address:** Association des Femmes au Foyer,  
200 rue Linthout, 1040 Brussels.

**Belgium is to take over the Presidency of the European Community's Council of Ministers from 1 January to 30 June 1987.** The Women's Centre for Continuing Education (Centre Féminin d'Education Permanente - CFEP) sees this as an ideal opportunity for Belgian women to put pressure on the Government to secure respect for Community directives on sexual equality, the creation of a European network offering prompt information on drugs (particularly in relation to young people) and consideration of European Parliament's resolutions on flexibility at work.

**Useful address:** Jacqueline de Groote, CFEP  
1/A place Quetelet, 1030 Brussels

**The National Council of Belgian Women** (Conseil National des Femmes Belges) has awarded its "Woman of the Year" Prize for 1986 to film director Marion Hansel, whose films include "Les Noces Barbares". The other winners are journalist Mia Dornaert, Monica Neve (community leader in the Marolles region), Francimex chairwoman Gisèle Aquit and interior decorator Françoise Leguet. The Prize was first awarded in 1983.

In response to the wishes of men and women who would like to know more of its history, the Council has launched an appeal to anyone able to contribute to research on its history by sending original or photocopied documents, photographs, letters, articles or reviews.

**Useful address:** Conseil National des Femmes Belges  
24 rue de Florence, 1050 Brussels

**Hidden sexism at school:** the Women's University (Université des Femmes) recently published a report on a one-day seminar on this subject last year. The volume includes papers given by Mme Dupuis, president of the Committee for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities in Education, Mme Legrand-Genin, director of Centre Psycho-medico-social in Visé, sociologist Mme Jonckheere and Mmes Verbeke and De Gos, research fellows at the Centre pour l'Etude de la Pédagogie Historique at the University of Ghent.

Also available from the Women's University is the January edition of Chronique Féministe, devoted to education and Third World issues. The journal, launched in 1982, has also announced an information day on careers for young women. The 20 issues of the journal can be obtained individually or by subscription (six issues a year for BF 500).

**Useful address:** Université des Femmes  
1/A place Quetelet, 1030 Brussels

**Widows' pensions for civil servants** - following a decree, widows who have themselves worked and paid national insurance contributions may find their incomes almost halved. Protest action is planned: problems may be raised with the complaints office of the Women's Liaison Committee (Comité de Liaison des Femmes) between 13.30 and 16.30 hrs on Mondays.

**Useful address:** Comité de Liaison des Femmes,  
1/A place Quetelet, 1030 Brussels.

**Retirement age** - the Government wants to rationalize the system by setting the same retirement age (65) for men and women. In practice, the system of calculating retirement benefits would also change and women would receive smaller pensions.

The Women's Liaison Committee agrees with the principle of a single retirement age (which would put an end to existing discrimination) but opposes any measure that would widen the gap between men's and women's incomes.



The Committee is also protesting against the fact that, since 1 December 1986, women who have reached the age of 55 no longer have the right to apply for early retirement. This new ruling was brought in under the pretext of "economic necessity".

**Useful addresses:** Comité de Liaison des Femmes - see above  
 Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires Sociales (Pensions)  
 19 avenue des Arts, 1040 Brussels

**Abortion** is still in the news - the Lallemand-Herman-Michielsen bill on relaxing abortion laws is under review by the Committee for Justice and Public Health. The debate is sure to continue into the summer. Detailed information is given by Senate Document 189 of 6 March 1986.

**Useful address:** Sénat, 1 place de la Nation, 1000 Brussels

**National decorations for women in history.** A Belgian woman, Marie Schellinck, enlisted in the army as a volunteer in 1792, fought in the Revolutionary and Empire campaigns, was wounded at Austerlitz and was decorated by Napoleon in 1808. It was not until 1851 that another woman, second lieutenant Brûlon, was decorated, this time by Napoleon III. The following year, four nuns received the Legion of Honour.

**Rates charged by creches** have been published in a leaflet produced by Femmes Prévoyantes Socialistes. The leaflet claims that creches are expensive not for the State but for their users, who have to pay social security contributions, hand over 10% of their net incomes to creches and, in the case of married couples, pay higher taxes on their joint income. Women who stay at home to bring up their children reap the benefits.

**Useful address:** La Femme Prévoyante, 32 rue Saint-Jean, 1000 Brussels

**A new women's centre** has been opened by the association Vie Féminine in one of the poorer quarters of Verviers. The centre provides workshops, a legal information service, activities for women of a certain age group, and facilities for exchanging second-hand clothes, books and other goods.

**Useful addresses:** La Fourmilière, 12 rue du Vieu Hôpital, Verviers  
Vie Féminine, 11 rue de la Poste, 1210 Brussels

**Women and health:** the International Health Foundation publishes a bi-monthly information bulletin on physical and mental health problems that may affect women and also produces booklets dealing more fully with specific problems.

**Useful address:** Internat. Health Foundation, 43 rue de Namur, 1000 Brussels

**Equal opportunities** were the subject of a study day held last year by the Dutch-speaking Ministry for Education. A report on the day's events appeared in the December issue of the newsletter produced by the association Changeons les Livres (29 rue Blanche, 1050 Brussels).

**Useful address:** Mme Hermans, Ministerie van Onderwijs,  
 138 Koningstraat, 1000 Brussels

**The University of Louvain-la-Neuve** has awarded honorary doctorates to European Commission President Jacques Delors and Sister Emmanuelle, the first woman to receive this honour. Accepting his doctorate, President Delors called for a Europe with a true political conscience.

The seminar on **solidarity with the women of South Africa**, held at Centre Borschette last December, was opened by Belgian Socialist Anne-Marie Lizin. Its aim was to demonstrate that women bear the brunt of apartheid.

**Association Solidarité Quart Monde**, 12 avenue Victor Jacobs, 1040 Brussels) is changing the name of its newsletter from "Igloos" to "Quart Monde". Although its activities cover a broad area, the Association often finds itself dealing with the problems of women victims of "the new poverty".

**D E N M A R K**

**The action programme for equal treatment of men and women**, presented by the Prime Minister, was discussed by Danish Parliament in January. During this first debate, Parliament called on the Premier to make an annual report on equal treatment to the Danish Equality Council (Ligestillingsrådet), to submit a review of the results to Parliament by 1992 at the latest, set up a committee to monitor international activities under the action programme and give the Equality Council adequate resources and authority to deal with problems relating to equal pay and equal treatment. The National Council of Danish Women (Danske Kvinders Nationalråd - DKN) reacted to the new programme by pointing out the need for adequate follow-up, more access to top-level international posts for women and an improvement in their status in developing countries. It has been decided that the Nairobi Committee, which put forward the proposals included in the equality programme, will continue its work, particularly in ensuring that equality policies are properly applied.

**The National Council of Danish Women (DKN)** had reviewed the proposed programme in December of last year, before the parliamentary debate. Helle Degn, then chairing the Equality Council, took the opportunity to call on women not to under-estimate themselves, even if others did.

One of the matters discussed during a DKN debate was the kind of equality women should be seeking: should they merely battle for equal opportunities on the job market or should they extend their campaign to include equal results too, which is where the most acute problem lies? DKN's representative said that legal measures should be introduced to ensure that jobs are shared equally between men and women, at least during an initial phase.

Unskilled adult women face more difficulties than most on the labour market and DKN is asking the Government to introduce training policies to alleviate the situation. This request is backed by DKN's member organizations, including the Association of Craftswomen (Dansk Håndværks Kinder), Housewives' Association (Danske Husmoderforeninger) and Association of Working Women (Kvindeligt Arbejderforbund).

Apart from calling on the Government to take action, DKN has taken the initiative in launching a **pilot training project in the traditionally male preserve of iron and steel**, with the help of funds from the Ministry of Labour. At present, 24 women are attending experimental courses in iron and steel technology (42 weeks) and the use of computers in the industry (26 weeks). The courses are preceded by a nine-week foundation course covering topics such as the position of women on the job market, women's role in male-dominated areas of employment and new technology.

The practical difficulties facing the project include employers' reluctance to offer training posts to women, but DKN's project leader Aase Rieck Sørensen is convinced that it is a worthwhile experiment and will spark off more thought on the problems of training adults.

**Useful addresses:** DKN, 8/10 Niels Hemmingsensgade, 1153 Copenhagen  
Ligestillingsrådet, 21 Frederiksgade, 1265 Copenhagen

**Ligestillingsrådet - the Equality Council - has a new chairwoman:** former Labour Minister Ms Fenger-Møller took over from Helle Degn on 1 January.

### **Nordic Forum: a Nordic Women's Conference in 1988**

The Council of Nordic Ministers has decided to hold a Nordic Women's Conference from 30 July to 7 August 1988. It will take place in Oslo and be attended by women representatives of professional and non-governmental organizations and women's associations.

The conference will include exhibitions, workshops, seminars and other activities highlighting the status of women in the year 2000. A committee chaired by Norwegian MP Grete Knudsen will be responsible for preparing the conference, which is to be led by Helle Jarlmoose, former president of the Danish Women's Group (Dansk Kvindesamfund).

Preparatory meetings took place in March and April and were attended by representatives of the Nordic Committee for Equal Treatment, Nordic governments, women researchers and women's organizations.

**Useful address:** DKN, 8/10 Niels Hemmingsensgade, 1153 Copenhagen.

## FRANCE

**The Delegation for Women's Status - Délégation à la Condition Féminine** - published the first issue of its bi-monthly newsletter, Dfi, in December 1986. The issue includes an article on the employment of young women and an interview with Social Affairs and Employment Minister Philippe Seguin, in which the Minister acknowledges that, although more and more women are being appointed to positions of responsibility, political power still rests in the hands of men.

Other items cover the work of the Delegation, family and social life, conditions in schools and universities and European and international affairs. Under this last heading, the newsletter welcomes the appointment of Jeanine Meilhon as the first woman Chief Treasurer and Paymaster in the GERS.

**Useful address:** Délégation à la Condition Féminine  
14 boulevard de la Madeleine, 75008 Paris

The Délégation à la Condition Féminine has also collaborated with the Institut National des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques (INSEE National institute of Statistics and Economic Studies) on producing Femmes en chiffres (women in figures), a work containing essential statistical data on women. It includes population statistics and facts and figures on the family, maternity, health, employment, education and training, living conditions, violence and power, and is available from INSEE's regional offices and 200 specialist libraries in Paris and throughout France. Lists of suppliers can be obtained from the Delegation (see address above).

On 11 December, the Delegate for Women's Status Hélène Gisserot chaired an open day to celebrate the new Information Office set up by the Centre National d'Information des Droits de la Femme (CNIDF - National Centre for Information on Women's Rights). The Centre was formed in 1981 to replace the Centre d'Information Féminin (CIF - Women's Information Centre), which had been set up by the Government in 1972 and was directly answerable to the Prime Minister. The new Information Office at 7 rue du Jura, 75013 Paris, offers the general public the services of a team of specialists in legal matters, social law, employment and training, health, associations and everyday problems, sex and family life. The Office is open to the public between 10.00 and 16.30 on Tuesdays and can be contacted by telephone between 9.30 and 12.30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The self-service documentation room

and sales office are open between 13.00 and 16.30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The Information Office - a public service provided by CNIDF in conjunction with the Delegation for Women's Status - also offers group information sessions, a reception office and information on employment.

CNIDF, which is chaired by Françoise Michaud, arranges training courses on women's rights, works with the authorities on gathering and publicizing information of interest to women (guides, booklets, practical information and a quarterly newsletter for members) and supports schemes to set up local women's information centres.

**Useful address:** CNIDF Diffusion, BP 470-08, Paris Cedex 08.

**The Union Féminine Civique et Sociale**, 6 rue Béranger, 75003 Paris, is celebrating its 60th anniversary. The activities of the "Women's Civic and Social Union" for 1986/87 include continuing work on its multi-annual programme, Minerve, whose aim is to promote a change in attitudes towards women. In 1987, work undertaken under this programme will include analyses of problems involved in artificial insemination and the social status of women. The Union also intends to publish a volume on civic education and an information pack on the President's powers.

**Women are voting but their voting pattern has changed** - Following the March 1986 elections, Janine Mossuz-Lavau, director of research at the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (National Foundation of Political Science) compared French women's voting with that of their fathers, brothers or husbands. The analytical findings revealed that, although there was no general swing to either the Left or Right, there was a marked trend to the Left among educated and employed young women. There has been a 13-point swing in the 18-20 age group, and 60% of women in middle-ranking office jobs voted for the Left, as against 44% of their male counterparts. Even a year after the elections the trend is worth noting, for women voters have traditionally shown a preference for the Right.

**Useful address:** Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques  
54 boulevard Raspail, 75270 Paris Cedex 06

**Women and methods of employment** is the theme of issue 14/15 of the journal produced by Association Nouvelles Questions Féministes, 34 passage du Ponceau, 75002 Paris. It includes articles on the right to employment, the division of labour, equality at work, family policy and a "multi-gearred" Europe. The Association would welcome contributions on feminism and economic liberalism, maternity, sexism, racism, nationalism and chauvinism.

**The Women's Information Agency** (Agence Femmes Information - AFI) regrets to announce that it will no longer be producing its newsletter, Nouvelles, though its computerized bulletin, Ellétel (launched in 1984) is being given a facelift, with two new regular items - Women's Calendar and Children of Science.

**Useful address:** AFI, Cité de Trévise, 75009 Paris.

**The Association de Midi-Pyrénées pour le Développement des Activités et des Initiatives Economiques des Femmes** (the Midi-Pyrenees Association for the development of women's activities and economic initiatives), 17 rue des Arts, 3100 Toulouse) has published the first issue of its news bulletin, Initielles.

Issue 4/86 of the quarterly newsletter produced by the Association Nationale des Françaises à l'Etranger (National Association of French women living abroad), 9 rue Humblot, 75015 Paris, contains information on women and politics, women and work, women's rights and women and culture.

**More and more women are working** - issue 193/194 of *Economie et Statistiques* contains an article by Guy Desplanques and Michel de Saboulin, who claim that in 1982 only one in ten women between the ages of 35 and 39 had ever had a job, four in ten had taken at least one break in their working lives and five in ten had never given up work. Women office workers tend to take fewer breaks in their careers. Of women aged 40 to 44 who had stopped working for at least two years, 44% had gone back to work, mainly on a part-time basis.

An initial list of people nominated for and awarded the Légion d'Honneur was published in the press at the beginning of January. There were only 32 women among the 550 names put forward.

Francine Demichel, lecturer in law and politics, has been elected president of Paris University VII, Saint-Denis.

## G E R M A N Y

### **It's a record!**

The number of women MPs in the newly elected Bundestag (Lower House) has risen from 51 to 80, which means that 15.4% (as opposed to 9.8%) of German MPs are women, though percentages vary widely amongst the different political groups. Of the 44 Green Party candidates elected, as many as 25 are women. Emanuele Gazzo of Agence Europe writes that "this is an historic occasion. For the first time, a political party or movement has nominated and elected more women than men. Such concrete recognition of women's role in building modern society demands both perception and political courage".

The number of women MPs representing the Social Democrats (31 out of 193) and Liberals (6 of 42) has also increased, and women Christian-Democrats (CDU/CSU) in the House have increased from 17 to 18, of whom 16 (of a total of 185) represent the CDU. The CSU, the Bavarian section of the CDU, has 47 men and only 2 women MPs.

Both the major parties (CDU and SPD) lost seats in the elections but the CDU is still in power and will govern with the FDP, which managed to improve its position considerably. The most spectacular advances were, however, made by the Greens.

**There is a total of six women in the newly formed Government**, including two ministers: Rita Süßmuth (CDU) who retains her post at the Ministry for Youth, Family Affairs, Women and Health, and Dorothee Wilms (CDU) who has been transferred from Education to the Ministry of Inter-German Relations. The others are Irmgard Adam-Schwaetzer (FDP), Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and three Parliamentary Secretaries of State: Lieselotte Berger (CDU) at the Chancellery, Agnes Hürland (CDU) at the Ministry of Defence and Irmgard Karwatzki (CDU) in the Department of Education and Science.

One of the newly elected MPs is one-time president of the young socialists Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul, who has been a very active Euro-MP.

**A full list of elected women candidates** and an initial analysis of women's votes (the final results will not be available for several months) has been published by the Council of German Women (Deutscher Frauenrat) in its newsletter, Informationen für die Frauen.

The Social Democrats seem to arouse more sympathy among women than any other party, whilst the Greens, with the largest number of women MPs, hold no particular attraction for women voters, who are sometimes put off by the Party's internal disputes over doctrine.

**Irmgard Blättel**, president of the Deutscher Frauenrat (German Women's Council), invited the 80 women MPs to an awareness session, where she asked them to call for a "Federal programme for women" promoting the development of women's associations and parental leave for all mothers.

The Council has also expressed strong **criticism of the language used** on voting slips, which seem to assume that all candidates are male. Irmgard Blättel had already written to complain about this to the Minister of the Interior before the elections. As she realized that there was no time to correct the wording, she asked the Minister to issue a statement on the subject. She pointed out that one of the reasons that women have less chance of being elected than men is that the Government uses legal jargon created by men.

**At a meeting with women civil servants** working in federal bodies, the Deutscher Frauenrat asked them to place pressure on their employers to implement the "guidelines on the promotion of women in the Federal administration" adopted in March 1986.

A three-yearly report on the situation is not enough, and hidden forms of discrimination do not show up in the figures. The Council feels that **every ministry should have an officer responsible for women's matters**, a "women's woman" (Frauenfrau).

**Congratulating Rita Süssmuth** on her fiftieth birthday and praising her work for women, Irmgard Blättel said that the Minister for Women's Affairs should not be placed in the position of having constantly to ask for favours but should have a right of veto and the right to take the initiative.

Further information on all the above topics is available from Deutscher Frauenrat, 125 Südstrasse, 5300 Bonn 2.

Early this year new teams consisting of ten women and three men started work at the **Ministry for Youth, Family and Women's Affairs and Health** in the following areas: planning, coordination, research and international questions; women's careers; women and the family - the return to work; social security - women in unusual situations; equality; violence against women; women and the media; health and psycho-social problems; women in politics and women and society.

The Minister recently issued a statement on the Cabinet decision retroactively to **extend allowances compensating mothers for bringing up their children to women born before 1921**, to be applied in stages between now and October 1990. The Minister would have preferred the decision to be implemented immediately for all mothers, but this is impossible for financial reasons. It was important that the first to benefit from the measure should be women who had children during the 1920s and had to bring them up, often on their own, during the war and post-war years. The first to receive their allowances were in fact women born before 1906.

German women have long been battling for this measure and the Ministry is delighted with the decision to introduce it.

The Ministry recently distributed 200,000 free leaflets on **returning to work after bringing up children**. Some 60% of married women work and 300,000 a year are ready to return to work after a break of an average of seven years.

The leaflet, directed towards these women, provides legal and practical information and case histories of women successfully returning to work, in an effort to help them decide what to do and find the information and motivation they need.

**The Office for Questions regarding Women** in the German Land of Hesse has produced a beautiful book entitled Vom Schweigen befreit: Internationales Komponistinnenfestival (Freed from Silence: the International Festival of Women Composers), on the women who took part in the international festival in Kassel on 20-22 February. A general introduction, an historical account, interviews and analyses precede the festival programme in celebration of an event designed to prove Richard Strauss wrong in saying that "composing is for men" (Komponieren is eben Männersache). Further information from Die Bevollmächtigte der Hessischen Landesregierung für Frauenangelegenheiten, 1 Gustav-Freytag-Strasse, 6200 Wiesbaden.

Also in Kassel, conductor **Mascha Blankenberg** is setting up Germany's first women's orchestra.

**Useful address:** Mascha Blankenberg, 4 Münstererstrasse, Cologne 80

The **Women's Service** in the German Land of Hesse continues to develop its activities in favour of women in many areas:

- **Violence against women.** A huge campaign launched in 48 towns in Hesse is being very effectively advertised by a poster showing a terrified woman holding her arm up to cover her face. The slogan reads "love and violence never go together".

The organizers have produced literature based on last August's conference on violence against women and a leaflet giving addresses to contact for help and advice. They are also planning a conference on the sexual abuse of children and young women and hope to set up a pilot shelter for young women (Mädchenhaus).

- **Work and equal opportunities for young women.** The Women's Service is conducting three studies: one directed by Gitta Trauernicht on the situation of girls and young women as regards education and training, which is examining the general social position of young women and the potential for conflict; one led by Gitta Trauernicht and Ulla Passarge on young women and vocational training, which includes a description of special programmes in Hesse, and the third led by Christiana Close on young women and the job market, including interviews that touch on their private lives (with questions relating to matters such as sex and violence).

- The Service's "Press Information" series includes an **annual report of work carried out by the regional Equality Committee**. It is also to publish a calendar illustrated by women artists working in the Land of Hesse.

A letter from Marita Haibach, Secretary of State to the officer responsible for women's affairs in the Land of Hesse, mentions an historic event - the Green Party's December 1986 **discrimination bill** covering parental leave, marital violence, measures against sexist publicity material and the appointment of officers responsible for women's problems in all Federal bodies.

Further information on all these matters is available from Bevollmächtigte der Hessischen Landesregierung für Frauenangelegenheiten, 1 Gustav-Freytag-Strasse, 6200 Wiesbaden 1.



Hamburg has **three new women mayors**, which means that women now occupy three of the seven key posts on Hamburg's council.

One woman who has been mayor for a long time now is Socialist Brunhild Wendel, who has been mayor of Schacht-Audorf (Schleswig Holstein) since 1966. She has been able to apply the principle of equality for her staff: half of the 24 council officials in Schacht-Audorf are women.

**The Deutscher Hausfrauen Bund** (German Housewives' Council) is resolutely committed to the protection of the environment and has asked Germany's 26 million households to keep house in an environmentally conscious way by not wasting energy and electricity, eating more sensibly and disposing of waste carefully. The aim is to make people think about what they are doing and hopefully encourage them to change their environmentally unsound habits.

**Useful address:** Deutscher Hausfrauen Bund, 193 Adenauerallee, 5300 Bonn 1

**An equality competition** is being held by the regional government of the Saar, which is offering a prize of DM 10,000 to the village that does most for equality between the sexes.

**Useful address:** Gleichstellungsstelle der Saarländischen Landesregierung  
Saarbrücken

Following in the footsteps of Monika Wulf-Mathies, leader of the "ÖTV" union of civil servants and transport workers, another woman has reached the top of the union ladder - **Christiane Albrecht** has been elected president of the education and science union, GEW.

**Useful address:** GEW, Curio-Haus, Rothenbaumchaussee, 2000 Hamburg 13

**Women managers are paid less than men**, even if they are equally well qualified and work in the same sector. This is the conclusion reached by Sonja Bischoff's survey for Hamburg University.

**Useful address:** Sonja Bischoff, Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Politik  
Von Melle Park, 2000 Hamburg 13

Another survey conducted by Gerhild Ries shows a **positive trend in the attitudes of young people**. A comparison of its findings with those of similar surveys in 1923 and 1956 indicates that girls are more aware of their own worth, boys are more egalitarian and sexual stereotypes are less marked.

**Germany's only commercial feminist publication**, Emma, is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Editor Alice Schwarzer has had to fight hard for the magazine's survival on several occasions over the years.

G R E E C E

Greek Parliament enacted a law **legalizing abortion** some seven months ago, but the enforcing decrees have not yet been introduced. The Greek Women's Union - Enossi Gynekon Elladas - recently protested angrily to the Ministry of Health, sending copies of its letter to the Prime Minister and Secretary-General for Equality. The Union is chaired by the Prime Minister's wife, Mrs Papandreou.

**Useful address:** Enossi Gynekon Elladas, 8 Enianos, 104 34 Athens



**Action for women** - Omospondia Gynekon Elladas (the Greek Women's Federation) has launched an appeal for the cooperation of non-governmental organizations in organizing action for women. The Federation held a meeting of representatives of women's organizations in Athens late last year to discuss women's employment, peace and defence, continuing discrimination despite equality laws, health and social services.

**Useful address:** Omospondia Gynekon Elladas, 52 Acadimias, 106 79 Athens

**The League for Women's Rights** - Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas - awards an annual prize to the journalist dealing most fully and effectively with the problems of sexual equality. It has recently introduced two new awards: one for the best feminist publicity and a booby prize for the most sexist piece of advertising. Women will be asked to boycott the goods thus advertised.

**Useful address:** Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas  
41 Solonos, 106 72 Athens

#### Anniversaries

. The Athens Zonta Club, part of Zonta International, an organization for professional women, celebrated its **twentieth anniversary** in the presence of Milanese industrialist Maria Carla Grippa, director of Zonta Clubs in Europe. The aims of the Club include the improvement of women's status in professional, economic, political and social life.

**Useful address:** Viky Papoui, 23 Odos Feidipidou, 115 27 Athens

. The small feminist bookshop "To vivlio to pedi", competently and enthusiastically run by active Greek feminist Eleni Pampouki, is celebrating its **tenth anniversary**. The bookshop is about to be given a new name ("Selana", the Greek word for moon) but is not about to give up its role as a meeting place and centre for the exchange of views and ideas.

**Useful address:** Selana, 38 Sina, 106 72 Athens

A **new six-monthly feminist journal**, DINI, is being produced by a collective of 17 women who play an active role in the independent (i.e. politically non-aligned) feminist movement. The first issue includes a full account of the abortion debate, articles on the local elections and Simone de Beauvoir and a calendar of events of interest to women.

**Useful address:** DINI, 95-97 Zoodochou Pighis St, 114 73 Athens

## I R E L A N D

**The recent national elections**, in which Charles Haughey was elected as Prime Minister to replace Garret Fitzgerald, have left the number of women MPs unchanged: there are still 14 women among the 166 Dail deputies. One of the shock results was the failure of Fine Gael member and Minister of State for Women's Affairs Nuala Fennel to hold her seat.

The new Government includes just one woman: Education Minister Mary O'Rourke.

**Useful address:** Council for the Status of Women  
64 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2

#### Equal pay: more problems to be solved

The gap between men's and women's earnings has not narrowed since 1981 and there has been no real shift of women workers to non-traditional occupations, according to an equality review published recently by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU).

On a more optimistic note, there has been progress in negotiations with employers on parental leave and a growing involvement of women in the trade union movement (the number of full-time working women officials has almost doubled from 4% to 7% since 1982).

The ICTU has also announced the findings of a study it had commissioned on low pay, which reveal that women are more likely to be badly paid than their male counterparts and that 72% of employees under 20 received low pay.

**Useful address:** Irish Congress of Trade Unions, 19 Raglan Road, Dublin 4

"A Fair Deal for Women: Four Years of Achievement" is the title of a publication outlining the achievements of the outgoing Government during its four years in office in the areas of family law reform, employment, education, health, social welfare and enterprise.

**Useful address:** Minister of State for Women's Affairs, Govt. Bldgs, Dublin 2

An excellent report has been produced on the issues that arose during Women's Health Week last October. One of the facts to emerge is that there has been a huge increase in the life expectancy of Irish women - a baby girl born in Ireland today can expect to live to over 75, whereas a child born in the 1930s had a life expectancy of just 37 years.

**Useful address:** Minister of State for Women's Affairs, Govt. Bldgs, Dublin 2

A study on **Women in Enterprise** describes the experience of 89 women who have set up their own businesses: their problems and solutions, their use of financial institutions and government agencies. It recommends the formulation and implementation of special policy measures geared to women entrepreneurs.

**Useful address:** Industrial Development Authority, Wilton Place, Dublin 2

"Irish Women into Focus" is a booklet tracing the development of the women's movement in Ireland from 1898, when women were first granted the right to vote in local elections. It devotes much space to the 1970s, when the Irish Women's Liberation Movement was founded and the Council for the Status of Women set up. It can be obtained from the Office of the Minister of State for Women's Affairs (see address above).

The first conference on **Women and Regional Policy** confirmed the importance of women's role in rural areas and gave participants, many of whom live in isolated places, an opportunity to make useful new contacts. The keynote address was given by Katherin Hoskins of Lancaster Polytechnic, author of "Women's Rights in the EEC".

**Useful address:** Council for the Status of Women  
64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2

A recent decision by the High Court in Dublin has made it **illegal for counselling services to give information on the availability of abortion services** outside Ireland. The decision has the immediate effect of closing down the "Open Line" counselling service and curtailing the services offered by the Irish Well Woman Centre. An appeal will probably be lodged with the Supreme Court.

**Useful address:** Well Woman Centre, 60 Eccles Street, Dublin

The Irish Army recruited its first women soldiers in March 1980 and there are now 61, compared with 14,000 men. The highest rank held by women are captain at officer level and sergeant at recruit level.

**Useful address:** Army Press Office, Army Headquarters  
Parkgate Street, Dublin 8

In 1984, the Department of Justice commissioned a **study of sex offenders in Irish prisons**. There is widespread concern at the rising the number of rape cases coming before the courts, which have varied in their application of sentencing policy, meting out prison sentences of anything from 4 to 20 years. Organizations involved in assisting rape victims have called for mandatory prison sentences for rapists.

**Useful address:** Rape Crisis Centre, 2 Lower Pembroke Street, Dublin 2

I T A L Y

**Equality: a national action programme**

Last December, the Council of Ministers adopted a national action programme for sexual equality, which had been drawn up by 23 members of the Commissione per la Realizzazione della Parità tra Uomo e Donna (the Committee for Parity between Men and Women) in consultation with women's associations. This essential document covers every aspect of life in Italy, the world of employment, school, information, health and the law.

The Committee has also published **recommendations on the non-sexist use of the Italian language**, formulated by Luisa La Malfa in the light of guidelines set out by Professor Alma Sabatini. This guideline, which makes suggestions and points to opportunities, has been distributed to Italian schools. It uses a series of clear examples (in "yes/no" column form) of how to avoid certain tricky words and find acceptable alternatives.

**Useful address:** Commissione per la Realizzazione della Parità  
tra Uomo e Donna, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri  
Palazzo Chigi, Rome

**Equality: a positive action bill**

The positive action bill, which is to be submitted to Parliament, was presented on the same day as the equality action programme by Employment Minister Gianni de Michelis, who said that "words must be turned into deeds". The positive actions proposed include the creation of an "observatory", training and career advancement courses and actions to promote the return to work after a break.

**Useful address:** Comitato Nazionale per la Parità delle Lavoratrici  
Ministero del Lavoro e della Previdenza Sociale, 6 via Flavia, Rome

Activities to promote positive actions include a practical scheme launched by the Associazione Imprenditrici e Donne Dirigenti d'Azienda (AIDDA - Association of Women Entrepreneurs and Company Directors), in conjunction with the European Commission: a **Management Master Class** at Bocconi University in Milan, with a study grant for a young woman interested in a career with international prospects.

This full-time course offered by one of Italy's most prestigious universities will run from 31 August 1977 to 25 November 1988.

Women of Europe will announce the name of the successful applicant when the grant is awarded.

**Useful address:** Segretaria AIDDA, Delegazione Lombarda  
61 via Sardegna, 20146 Milan

**The European Community's Equal Opportunities Action Programme** continues to attract a good deal of interest in the public and private sectors in Italy. The Italian Socialist Party held a seminar on the subject in Rome; a conference in Bologna to discuss "positive actions in Italy and Europe - practical examples" was attended by representatives of the European Commission. One of those examples is the Italian food company Parmalat, which is offering a women-only course in new technology. Further information is given in "Fuori Pasto", the monthly magazine produced by the Federation of Food and Tobacco Companies - Federazione Alimentazione e Tabacco, 43 via del Viminale, 00184 Rome.

The bill on **the protection of sexual freedom** has been examined by the Centro Italiano Femminile (CIF - Italian Women's Centre), whose comments have been passed on to the Parliamentary Justice Committee now discussing the bill. The Centre is concerned to ensure an atmosphere of social cohabitation that respects the dignity of the individual, and has expressed its bewilderment at trials in open court of cases in which the victim is a minor.

**Useful address:** CIF, 25 via Carlo Zucchi, 00165 Rome

**Two firsts for Amnesty International:** this huge organization (500,000 members in 150 countries) has its first woman president, an Italian. Lawyer Franca Sciuto has long been an active member of Amnesty at local level.

**Fathers who have to bring up their children alone** will now have the same right as mothers to remain at home for the first three months of the child's life and receive 80% of their normal earnings, thanks to the Constitutional Court's recent finding in favour of single father Giuseppe Smiraglia, which establishes an important precedent for equality.

Teacher Filippo Materia, who is neither separated nor a widower, is also fighting for this right because he believes that children need their fathers as much as their mothers.

**The innovative scheme "Progetto Donna"**, financed by the European Social Fund and the regional authority of Latium (the region that includes Rome), supports women wanting to set up their own businesses or improve their management methods in running existing concerns. The scheme started in 1982 with a study on "two careers and a family" and then extended its activities to include training courses, seminars, study groups and a pilot training project for women entrepreneurs in the Latium region. There is to be a six-month follow-up period after the project.

The scheme organizers would be interested to hear of similar projects in other Member States and are willing to cooperate with them. Further details of the scheme are available from Progetto Donna, Centro per l'Informazione e lo Sviluppo Professionale, 46 via del Tritone, 00187 Rome.

**European Year of the Environment:** the Unione Donne Italiane (UDI - Italian Women's Union), which has already trained several women as "ecology workers", is preparing an integrated project to mark Environment Year. The scheme will include a newsletter to be distributed to women's organizations, articles in women's magazines, radio and television programmes, a telephone hotline, a documentation service, seminars and plays.

**Useful address:** UDI, 12 via Trinità dei Pellegrini, 00186 Rome

**Women in:**

- . **the Army:** the National Committee for Parity between Men and Women - Commissione per la Realizzazione della Parità tra Uomo e Donna - is calling for a reform of the law on military service to end discrimination (see Women of Europe n° 48 on the Government's proposals concerning military service for women). The Committee's report says that women should be allowed to join the combat force and so reach the highest ranks. It also suggests a national referendum on the issue, though this should be consultative rather than institutional.
- . **the police:** since September, 225 women motorbike police have completed their training at the traffic police centre in Cesena. They were trained alongside their male colleagues and equalled them in number. Most of the women say that they enjoyed their first few months as motorbike police.
- . **local authorities:** Franca Podda has been elected commissioner of Oniferi, a small commune in Sardinia suffering from a serious outbreak of violent crime. She will hold the position until the local elections in May.
- . **the service industries:** a conference held by the Italian Retailers' Association (Confcommercio, 2 piazza C. Belli, 00153 Rome) on "the prevalence of women in the service industries" was attended by leading lights in the world of economics and politics, including French sociologist Evelyne Sullerot, Elena Marinucci and sociologist Franco Ferrarotti, who stressed the importance of action to prevent "female ghettos" in certain areas of employment. The official statistics on women's employment show that women often reach the top of the hierarchy in the service industries.
- . **the arts, liberal professions and business:** during its recent national conference, the Federazione Italiana Donne Arti Professioni Affari Federation of Women in the arts, the professions and business), which is affiliated to the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, set up a new foundation (Fondazione FIDAPA) to help ensure implementation of European Community directives on equality, provide study grants for women and organize training courses.  
**Useful address:** Dr Tatiana de Bartolomeo, 45 via Domenichino, 20149 Milan
- . **business:** issue 22/26 of Realtà, the journal of Confederazione Italiana Dirigenti d'Azienda (the Italian Confederation of Company Directors - CIDA), is devoted to the work of the Confederation's working party on women managers.  
**Useful address:** Carla Maestri, CIDA, 75 via Nazionale, 00184 Rome
- . **the world of science:** a recent survey carried out by the Centro di Documentazione e Iniziativa delle Donne di Bologna (Women's Documentation and Project Centre in Bologna) indicated that one in three members of scientific teams in universities was a woman, often occupying a less important posts than men and feeling frustrated by the situation. The full survey findings appear in "Donne scienziate nei laboratori degli uomini" (women scientists in male-dominated laboratories).
- . **Southern Italy:** the Comitato Nazionale per la Parità delle Lavoratrici - National Committee for Parity between Men and Women Workers (Ministero del Lavoro e della Previdenza Sociale, 6 via Flavia, Rome) has organized a conference on the employment of women in Southern Italy, where they are often an underprivileged group on the fringes of society.
- . **architecture:** an exhibition in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region is helping to publicize the work of women architects by showing evidence of their past successes and future projects.

**She is Italy's greatest astronomer** and yet hardly anybody has ever heard of her: Margherita Hack (66) has been director of the Trieste Observatory since 1964 and has published more than 200 scientific papers. She discovered the joys of the telescope at the age of 22; before that she was Italian long jump champion. The magazine Grazia recently printed an article on this fascinating woman.

The Prime Minister recently opened a competition for a design of a new emblem for the Italian Republic - there is not a single woman on the panel of judges.

**UN protection for minors:** Maria Rita Saule, member of the National Committee for the Realization of Parity between Men and Women, represented Italy at the recent meeting of the working party set up to pave the way for a convention on the rights of minors. She spoke out in defence of the Italian proposal calling for the abolition of traditional practices such as female circumcision. The Senegalese delegate agreed that the convention should include a provision abolishing this practice.

**Useful address:** Commissione per la Realizzazione della Parità tra Uomo e Donna, Presidenza del Consiglio, Palazzo Chigi, Rome

**Vivere insieme** is an Italian shelter for young women. Director Piera Cunigo wants to compile a bibliography on women managers for a research project on the psychology of work.

**Useful address:** Piera Cunigo, 21 via Mocenigo, 00192 Rome

**"Passion for democracy: Franca Pieroni Bortolotti and the origins of the Italian women's movement"** was the theme of a recent discussion held by the Italian Communist Party's interparliamentary women's group (Gruppo Interparlamentare Donne Elette nelle Liste del PCI), which analysed the problems faced by the women's movement in Italy. The formerly unpublished works of Franca Pieroni Bortolotti have now been published by Donna-Woman-Femme, 12 via S. Benedetto Arenula, 00186 Rome.

**Useful address:** Gruppo Interparlamentare Donne Eletti nelle Liste del PCI  
4, via Botteghe Oscure, 00187 Rome

The March celebrations (see page 4) coincided with a change of face for two publications for women: **Minerva**, edited by Annamaria Mammoliti, and **Noi Donne**, the journal of the Italian Women's Union (Unione Donne Italiane), which is edited by Mariella Gramaglia. The usual print run of 50,000 was increased to 260,000 for the March issue of Noi Donne.

## L U X E M B O U R G

**The National Congress of Women Socialists** was forced to admit that women play a limited role in politics. It was not until 1965 that a (Socialist) woman was elected to Parliament and, twenty years later, just seven of Luxembourg's 64 MPs are women. The situation is somewhat better in European Parliament, where three of Luxembourg's six MEPs are women: Marcelle Lentz-Cornette (EPP), Lydia Schmit (Soc) and Lydie Wurth-Polfer (Lib).

**Useful address:** Femmes Socialistes, 2 rue de la Boucherie, 1247 Luxembourg

**Family affairs in the news**

- **Mothers who do not go out to work** may soon be eligible for an allowance, announced Family Affairs Jean Spautz recently. It is not yet known what the allowance will be.

**Useful address:** Ministère de la Famille, 14 avenue de la Gare, Luxembourg

- **Family allowances for single people** are being demanded by the civil service section of the Association pour la Défense des Intérêts des Célibataires (ADIC Association for the Defence of Single Persons' Interests), which points out that family allowances are paid to divorced, separated and widowed civil servants. The case has been brought before the Civil Service Arbitration Committee.

**Useful address:** ADIC, 28 Chemin Vert, 3878 Schifflange

- **A seminar on single-parent families** held recently by the Institut Pédagogique of Walferdange touched on all the problems faced by single parents: financial difficulties, bringing up children, escaping social isolation, rebuilding self-confidence and organizing leisure activities.

**Useful address:** Centre de Formation pour les Familles Monoparentales  
47 avenue de la Liberté, Luxembourg

<b>N E T H E R L A N D S</b>
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**Europe and women:** the November 86 issue of the Dutch European Movement's magazine Europa Periodiek featured the position of women in the European Community. Articles covered equality policies, women's position on the labour market, women and culture, the Dutch Women's Council and European institutions.

**Useful address:** Europa Periodiek, Europese Beweging in Nederland  
2 Alexanderstraat, 2514 JL The Hague

**The emancipation of women in Government declarations and the declaration of themes for 1987** is one of a series of documents on women's status and Government measures to promote equality, published by the Ministry for Social Affairs. The Ministry has also published an annual report giving recent statistics on women's employment: the percentage of women in work rose from 35% in 1979 to 44% in 1986. The number of unemployed women has, however, also risen by 15% in the past six years, and 50% more women are in badly paid, part-time jobs.

**Useful address:** Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid  
73 Zeestraat, 2518 AA The Hague

**Social Affairs Minister Jan de Koning** has announced that his Ministry is to offer subsidies to employers recruiting women trained in traditionally male skills (see address above).

In answer to a parliamentary question, Jan de Koning recently confirmed that the Political Reform Party is maintaining its **right to exclude women** from Party membership. The Party, which has just three members in Parliament, uses the Bible to justify this exclusion.

The electrical firm Philips is planning to introduce **positive actions for women** and is to recruit more women to technical and scientific posts.

**Job creation and positive actions** is the title of a publication in which the Emancipation Council (Emancipatieraad) expresses its doubts about the effect that employers' and workers' unions participation in job placement could have on the recruitment of women. In another publication, the Council voices its support for an increase in childcare centres, which could provide a large number of jobs. This solution to childcare problems is preferable to the practice of lodging children with private families, which is supported by the Government.

**Useful address:** Emancipatieraad, 10 Lutherse Burgwal, 2512 CB The Hague.

**The world's first woman fighter pilot**, Nelly Speerstra, is Dutch. There is nothing to stop a fit woman from being a fighter pilot and, according to Air Force officers Mr Biggelaar and Mr Hoekstra, women might even be preferable to men because they tend to weigh about ten kilos less.

**The Women's Information and Documentation Centre** is computerizing its bibliography, filing and forthcoming events services. It will be possible to access the new data base from abroad.

**Useful address:** IDC, 10 Keizersgracht, 1015 CN Amsterdam

#### Women and work

- . **Return to work** is the subject of issue 16 of the Inforeeks series published by the National Council of Dutch Women (Nederlandse Vrouwenraad, 30 Land van Meerdervoort, 2517 The Hague).
- . **Positive Action 2** and **Positive Action Handbook** are the titles of two documents published by the working group on employment and welfare at Leiden University's Faculty of Social Sciences (Werkgroep Arbeidsvraagstukken Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, 15 Hooigracht, 2312 KM Leiden).
- . **Women and computers** is the title of the first Dutch quarterly to deal with this subject (Stichting Vrouwen en Informatica, 250 WG Plein, 1054 SE Amsterdam).
- . **Women and technology:** various training courses were launched this winter in several Dutch towns. Recent surveys indicate that some 350,000 women would like to embark on careers in the this field (Landelijk Steunpunt Vrouw en Werk, 11 Koningslaan, 3583 GG Utrecht).
- . **The Women and Mathematics Association** (Vrouwen en Wiskunde, Postbus 11563, 1001 GN Amsterdam) is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary by offering a beginner's course in mathematics.
- . **Women and crafts:** a recent survey shows that the craft industry is likely to suffer if it does not recruit more women. Women working in the industry often have greater motivation and skills than men (Hoofdbedrijfsschap Ambachten, 108 Badhuisweg, 2587 CM The Hague

**Hands Off!** (Handen Thuis) is the name of a Dutch sexual harassment complaints office. Its first annual report claims that new and temporary staff are often victims of sexual harassment. The office has received 227 complaints in the past year.

**Useful address:** Stichting Handen Thuis, Postbus 2122, 350 GC Utrecht



**Women's Studies:**

- . **The University of Utrecht** recently published a volume based on the conclusions of its conference on "the language, culture and future of women", which covered topics such as women's use of language, the historiography of women's cultural traditions and women's role in social policy (Rijksuniversiteit, Afdeling Voorlichting, 8 Heidelberglaan, Postbus 80125, 3508 TC Utrecht).
- . **The University of Groningen** is holding summer courses on women and work, religion, leadership, private life and welfare between 26 June and 2 July (Zomeruniversiteit Vrouwenstudies, Postbus 72, 9700 AB Groningen).
- . **The University of Nijmegen** has fewer women lecturers than any other Dutch university - there are just three women on its 300-strong teaching staff, a situation crying out for positive action. In contrast, Utrecht University has more female students than anywhere else, and this year's figures are 50% up on its previous record year in 1977.

P O R T U G A L

**Equality laws:**

- . The Government has adopted a bill that brings Portuguese law fully into line with the EEC directive on the gradual implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in social security matters (79/7/EEC).
- . **Equality at work is a right** is the watchword of the Comissão para a Igualdade no Trabalho e no Emprego (Committee for Equality at Work), 62 avenida da Republica, 8 Esq., 1000 Lisbon, for its information leaflet and poster on the Law of 20 September 1979. That law prohibits all forms of sexual discrimination, guarantees the right to bring cases of discrimination before the courts and sanctions reprisals against people who attempt to defend their rights. It also includes penalizes anyone found guilty of discrimination.

**The Women's Action Association** - Intervenção Feminina, Apartado 2072, 1102 Lisbon Cedex - was set up after the visit of Portuguese and Spanish women to the capitals of the European Community (Operation Welcome). It has now issued a report on its 1986 activities, which included meetings with the President and several other ministers, seminars, surveys and "technical" action (despatch of reports and documents to the committees responsible for reforming the education system and revising the system of gathering and disseminating statistical data). The Association is currently preparing for the first meeting of Spanish and Portuguese women on the theme of "Portuguese and Spanish women in Europe".

**Memories of women** is a competition launched by the magazine Mulheres to publicize every month the biographies of women who stand out for their activities in the social world, the arts or politics, or simply for daring to live in defiance of prejudices and the accepted idea of women's role.

**Useful address:** Gabinete do Concurso "Memoria de Mulheres",  
Alameda Santo Antonio 6-B, 1100 Lisbon

During his meeting with representatives of the Association last autumn, President Mario Soares announced the creation of a **new post of equality counsellor**, to be filled by a woman. The job has been given to Isabel Martinha, who will be assisted by Teresa de Sousa.

**Parliamentary Secretary-General Maria do Carmo Romão** has been unanimously elected to the chair of the Executive Committee of the Association of Parliamentary Secretary-Generals. She presented a report on women in the parliamentary administration which stated that, of the 36 parliaments that responded to the survey, 31% employed more women than men. Portuguese Parliament is leading the field and is alone in having a woman Secretary-General. It should, however, be pointed out that most of the women are relegated to traditionally female posts and rarely reach the higher echelons.

**Useful address:** Assembleia da Republica, São Bento, 1200 Lisbon

**Women farmers:** During a seminar held jointly by the Comissão da Condição Feminina (Committee on Women's Status) and the European Commission's Women's Information Service in Caldas da Rainha in January, more than 500 young women farmers (60 of whom had travelled from other Member States) compared attitudes on **the social and economic role of women in rural life** and gleaned information on the Common Agricultural Policy and Community action for equality.

The President was represented at the seminar by his wife, Maria Barroso. Other members of the Government present were the Minister responsible for the Women's Committee, Mr de Melo, and the Secretary of State for Agriculture. European Parliament was represented by Marietta Giannakou-Koutsikou (Greece, EPP). The seminar was an important event for rural Portugal and was given good press coverage.

The final report, presented by Regina Tavares, chairwoman of the Committee, reviewed the problems and outlined possible solutions, particularly on general aspects of the CAP and women's status in the farming world, stressing the need for equal rights.

The directive adopted in December 1986, covering the application of the principle of equal treatment for self-employed men and women, was regarded as unsatisfactory as a whole but at least a step towards an improvement in living and working conditions and incomes. Further progress was called for, by drawing up a Community instrument on the status of family farms.

**Useful addresses:** Comissão da Condição Feminina  
32-1° avenida da Republica, 1093 Lisbon Codex

For the final report in languages other than Portuguese, write to CEJA, 23-25 rue de la Science, 1040 Brussels.

The regional delegation of the Commission on Women's Status of Oporto has published a leaflet on the **"Women into Management" project**, which receives financial support from the European Social Fund.

**Useful address:** Comissão da Condição Feminina  
109-2° rua Dr Magalhães Lemos, 4000 Porto

Late last year, the **director of the Spanish Women's Institute** (Instituto de la Mujer) visited the Comissão da Condição Feminina. The two organizations took this opportunity to start a programme of regular information exchanges and decided to cooperate in areas of common interest, such as women's studies, violence against women, the situation of prostitutes and campaigns to make women more politically aware and active.

**Useful address:** Comissão da Condição Feminina  
32-1° avenida da Republica, 1093 Lisbon Codex

**"To change attitudes"** (Mudar as Atitudes) was both the name and aim of a UNESCO-funded project conducted by the Commission on Women's Status. It enabled teachers and students from schools and colleges to consider the distortions contained in educational material, which serve to perpetuate exual clichés, and analyse teachers' expectations of their male and female students. The project seminars held in schools in 11 areas were attended by about 500 people. The conclusion reached is that children of both sexes should be able to develop their personalities at school and girls should be encouraged to have active social lives and fight for equal opportunities.

**Useful address:** Comissão da Condição Feminina  
32-1º avenida da Republica, 1093 Lisbon Codex

**S P A I N**

**Abortion:** the Decree of 24 December 1986 allowing private clinics to carry out abortions has been put into abeyance by the Supreme Court. The law legalizing abortion (albeit in very restricted conditions and in public sector hospitals only) dates back to 1985. The case was brought before the Court by the Spanish Life Movement and the Department of Health has already announced its intention to appeal.

**Women can drive trains,** work as systems analysts and install electrical wiring systems, declares an advertisement published in the press by the Spanish Instituto de la Mujer (Women's Institute). The advertisement contains information on positive action for the recruitment of women under 25 in areas of employment where women are under-represented. Further information on the Institute's "Earnings Support Programme" (programa de apoyo salarial) is available from regional offices of the National Employment Institute (Instituto Nacional de Empleo - INEM).

The December issue of the Spanish Women's Institute's magazine **Mujeres** contains a list (three pages long) of associations and institutions that received financial support from the Institute in 1986, and an interview with former television journalist **Asuncion Valdes**, now director of the European Parliament's Information Bureau in Madrid. Selected from 450 applicants, she studied at the Collège de l'Europe in 1973/74, which she says is where she discovered the "Europe of freedom".

**Useful address:** Instituto de la Mujer, 36 Almagro, 28010 Madrid

**The Spanish Women in Management Network,** set up about a year ago under the leadership of Bobby Meyer, continues to expand and intends this year to organize seminars on marketing, communications and computers. It also hopes to start producing a newsletter.

**Useful address:** Bobby Meyer, 106 paseo del Embajador, Ciudadcampo  
San Sebastian de los Reyes, Madrid

Recent events organized by the **Catalonian Women's Association** (Dones de Catalunya, 92 passeig de Gracia, 08008 Barcelona) have included a series of concerts as part of a programme to publicize women's work in the arts. The Association is a member of the National Council of Spanish Women (Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Espana).

UNITED KINGDOM
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Following the ruling by the European Court of Justice that **invalid care allowances should be paid to married women caring for a relative** (see Women of Europe n° 46), the British Government immediately adopted the provisions necessary to bring legislation into line with this decision. The European Commission says that the public have been well informed of this change in the law by the wide coverage in the press and on television.

**The Sex Discrimination Act 1986** assented by parliament in November 1986, contains a number of changes necessary to bring Britain into line with the rest of the European Community and strengthen the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act.

From 7 February 1987, firms with five or less employees and partnerships, however small, may no longer discriminate against someone because of their sex or because they are married. This affects all kinds of small businesses and personal services such as dentists, opticians, doctors, shops, restaurants, hotels, farms and franchises. The 1986 Act also covers private households, although discretion is still allowed in choosing the sex of the person in one's home. It will also be unlawful to show a sex preference in job advertisements.

The Act outlaws collective agreements containing discriminatory clauses, but enables employers and training bodies to run single-sex training courses without reference to the Department of Employment. Restrictions on working hours will be lifted, while the right, established by Helen Marshall, of women in the public sector to work until the retirement age of men will be extended to the private sector. The provision comes into effect in November 1987.

**No discrimination against men either**, is the position taken by the Equal Opportunities Commission, which opened a formal investigation of recruitment practices followed by the airline company Dan Air, which had excluded men from cabin crews for 30 years. Admitting defeat, Dan Air agreed to change its recruitment policy and has started to train 20 male cabin staff.

**Useful addresses:** Equal Opportunities Commission, Overseas House  
Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN  
Dan Air Services Ltd, Bilbao House  
36-38 Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH

On March 1, the Archbishop of Canterbury ordained the **Church of England's first fifteen women deacons**. Women will not be able to become ministers until 1994 (see Women of Europe n° 47).

**The Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission** has, after some delay, published its annual report for the period April 1985/March 1986, which describes the Commission's extensive activities in matters such as equal pay, social security, backing for sex discrimination cases brought before the European Court of Justice, training and sexual harassment. The period showed the highest level of complaints since 1983, perhaps due to the Commission's vigorous policy of enforcement. There is still an urgent need for radical change in public opinion and traditional attitudes.

It is thanks to the Commission that an 18-year-old waitress at Belfast's Hitchin Post Inn received £4,000 compensation for **sexual harassment** by the manager and two male members of staff. The Tribunal held that an employer cannot claim that he is not responsible for the behaviour of his staff.

**Useful address:** Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission  
Chamber of Commerce House, 22 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 2BF

**The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)** opened new offices in Glasgow in February. Scotland is the first country in the UK to submit its proposals to the Government at the end of the UN Decade for Women. Women in Scotland should be proud, says the EOC.

**Useful address:** EOC Scottish Office, St Andrew House  
141 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2RN

Speaking at the Women and Training Conference organized by the Department of Employment and the European Commission, Secretary of State Lynda Chalker said it was time to put an end to the waste of women's intelligence and talents. Women make up 40% of Britain's labour force but only 2% of company directors, 2% of engineers, 4% of Members of Parliament and 20% of managers.

**Useful address:** Press Office, Department of Employment, Caxton House  
Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NF

Speaking on a similar subject at the Institute of Personnel Management, Second Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet Office Ann Mueller said that **93% of senior jobs in the civil service are held by men**. But things are changing: by the year 2000, more women will head ministries and more blacks and Asians will participate in policy-making and management. The civil service is committed to equal opportunities and convinced that such support will pay dividends in terms of effectiveness and results.

**Useful address:** Inst. of Personnel Management, 35 Camp Road, London SW19

**Brenda Dean - a tough assignment** - Brenda Dean, the first woman to head a major industrial union (Sogat 82) in Britain, faced a tough assignment. In January 1986, 4,000 members of the union were sacked by News International, the Rupert Murdoch company that includes The Times and The Sun. The strike lasted a year as the men demanded their jobs back. As the union had no chance of winning the struggle, Brenda Dean negotiated an end to the conflict.

**Useful address:** Sogat 82, Sogat House, 274/288 London Road  
Hadleigh, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2DE

There has been a **change in the Secretary of the TUC's Women's Committee**: Anne Gibson, who has filled the post with great success for nine years, has been appointed National Officer for Women in the Association of Scientific, Technical and Management Staff (ASTMS). Kay Carberry is her successor as the Women's Committee Secretary.

**Useful address:** TUC Women's Committee, Congress House  
Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS

A group of women from Rights of Women and the National Council of Civil Liberties has set up the **Women's Legal Defence Fund** to help women to bring cases of sexual discrimination to court. The Fund will set up a national network offering advice and support to organizations or associations who need financial support or information.

**Useful address:** Maggie Montieth, Rights of Women  
52-54 Featherstone Street, London EC17 8RT

**Women trying to make their voices heard** at all levels of government require a useful lobby pack offered by the pressure group Women's Lobby. The pack advises on how to write a letter to an MP or newspaper and how to form a group with like-minded women.

**Useful address:** Ruth Featherstone, 17 Nursery Gardens  
Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 1SF

Soroptimist International has signed a statement drafted by the **Working Group on Refugee Women**, to be presented to the Executive Committee of the UN High Commission for Refugees. The statement calls for legal and physical protection for displaced women, material assistance, training schemes and orientation programmes in asylum and resettlement countries.

**Useful address:** Soroptimist International, 87 Glisson Road, Cambridge CB1 2HC

#### Courses offered:

- . Canterbury English Studies for Women, 21 Monastery Street, Canterbury. These women-only courses fall into two categories: three- to six-week general courses and four-week foundation courses for women going on to study at a university or college. The curriculum includes discussions on women and work, the image of women and the development of the women's movement.
- . Women's Corona Society, Minster House, 274 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1BB. The Corona Society offers one-day "Living Overseas" courses for women going to live abroad, and also publishes an annual newsletter called "Notes for Newcomers".

## L A T I N   A M E R I C A

It is impossible for Women of Europe to mention all of the many interesting publications that appear throughout the world, but we would like to draw readers attention to the intensive publishing activity in Latin America, a continent that feels closer to Europe since Spain and Portugal joined the European Community.

The sixth volume in Isis International's "Ediciones de las Mujeres" series is a report on **women farmers in Latin America** and includes first-hand accounts of the experience of "country women" (campesinas) in Chile and Ecuador.

**Useful address:** Edicion Isis Internacional de las Mujeres  
Casilla 2067, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile

The alternative monthly women's magazine **Mujer/Fempres** is also published in Chile (Casilla 16-637, Santiago 9). The February issue includes articles on contraception in Argentina, advertising and feminism in Peru, sexual violence within marriage in Bolivia, women and communications in Mexico and a woman's odyssey in Brazilian Parliament.

The same publishing house recently released the second issue of **Red radiofonica de Mujeres de America Latina**, reporting on the experience of 16 new discussion programmes on of women's affairs.

The new constituent **Parliament in Brazil includes its first black woman** among the 497 MPs: Benedetta da Silva (44) is a child of the Copacabana slums (favelas) and a member of Brazil's most Left-wing group, the Workers' Party. Her aims as an MP are to promote literacy and radical social reform.

**The National Council for Women's Rights** in Brazil (Conselho Nacional dos Direitos de Mulher), chaired by Jacqueline Pitangery, has presented the newly elected Parliament with a draft "Women's Charter", setting out general principles and specific demands on the family, work, health, education and culture, violence and national and international affairs. The Charter bears the signatures of Maria, Ana, Amparo and other Brazilian women.

The National Council for Women's Rights launched its "Women Voters" (Mulher e Constituinte) campaign in November 1985, with a booklet outlining the demands of women voters. The Council's other publications include the occasional bulletin "Informe Mulher" and the "Esta Somos Nos" catalogue, under a programme of recording the history of women workers in Brazil. It contains information, illustrations and quotations. Maria Valeria Junho Pena's booklet "Mulher Trabalhadora" (women workers) and an exhibition of photographs are also part of this programme.

In 1986, the Council drafted a "Charter of Principles" for children, which demanded the right to creche facilities for all children up to the age of six.

**Useful address:** Conselho Nacional dos Direitos da Mulher, Ministerio da Justiça, Edificio Sede, Esplanada dos Ministerios, CEP 70064, Brazil

The latest issue of the newsletter produced by the **Women's Documentation Centre** in Peru (CENDOC-Mujer) contains an article on the Peruvian women's liberation movement and an announcement that a project on women and the radio ("the word reconquered") is to be continued. The scheme consists of a 40-hour course.

**Useful address:** CENDOC-Mujer, avenida Arenales 2626, Lima, Peru

Again in Peru, issue n° 7 of **Viva**, the magazine published by the Peruvian Women's Centre (Centro de la Mujer Peruana, 42 parque Hernan Velarda, Lima) includes articles on European women in positions of power, the Spanish women's movement and women's literature.

Also in Lima, **Bulletin Manuela Ramos** (921 avenida Bolivia) publishes surveys on work and family life, sexual harassment and women's financial problems.

The Women's Network in London has launched a **Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign** appeal for aid for women in rural areas of Nicaragua, who represent a significant part of the population and are the victims of Contra attacks.

**Useful address:** Women's Network, Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, 23 Beveden Street, London N1.

**The Chile Solidarity Campaign** has also launched an appeal for solidarity. A delegation of women members of the Campaign visited Chile in 1986. Copies of the delegates' report is available from Chile Solidarity Campaign, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N7 7QG.

**The Women of Intibuca** is the title of a video produced in the Honduras with the support of War on Want and Christian Aid. The aim is to draw attention to the plight of women in the Honduras.

**Useful address:** Honduras Human Rights Group, Priory House  
Kingsgate Place, London NW6

**The Women's Action Research Centre** (Centro de Investigacion para Accion Feminina) at the independent university of Santo Domingo publishes a monthly bulletin Que haceres (what to do) and publicizes events such as a one-day protest against the traffic in women and the creation of the "Minerva Mirabal" extra-mural Chair of Women's Studies.

The November issue of the Spanish magazine **Mujeres** published by the Women's Institute (Instituto de la Mujer) was devoted to Latin America and contained an interview with Chilean opposition leader Soledad Larrain, an article on three years of democracy in Argentina and statistics on life expectancy, school attendance and the number of women in national parliaments.

#### RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

To mark International Women's Day, the 150th issue of "Cahiers Marxistes" was a special women's issue of more than 100 pages, with articles on several of today's key problems, such as new styles of motherhood, blocking action against abortion laws, massive unemployment, greater flexibility in doctrine, the way in which the training of girls lags far behind the requirements of the modern world, and lower earnings and benefits for women than men.

**Useful address:** Cahiers Marxistes, 20 avenue de Stalingrad, 1000 Brussels

**Storia delle donne: una scienza del possibile** by Marina Addis Saba, Ginevra Conti Odorisio, Beatrice Pisa and Fiorenza Taricone and published by Edizioni Felina (60 viale B.V. del Carmelo, 00144 Rome). The four authors, all academics working on women's status, analyse the debate on women in politics, the "history of the history" of women, women's history and collusions and divergences in the "new history". The book is presented in an original format (the main text on the right-hand page and, on the left, notes and comments for ready consultation) and offers a thorough and complex analysis to explain the "desire for history" expressed by women in the search for their identity. History is biased because it has been written by men in a way that eclipses and negates women's role.

**Women inventors do exist** (les femmes inventeurs existent) is the title of a book by international civil servant Farag Moussa who has met women of that species. She paints a portrait of 50 women inventors of all ages (the youngest is eight) and in all sectors (though they do not include a woman engineer). The book also mentions the "women of solidarity" and the feminists who offer them assistance. It covers 26 countries and contains some 100 illustrations and an exhaustive index.

**Useful address:** Farag Moussa, 3 rue Bellot, 1206 Geneva



**Local job schemes** - Initiatives Locales pour l'Emploi - available from the European Bookshop (244 rue de la Loi, Brussels) or the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities in Luxembourg, is an account of unconventional job creation schemes and part of a research and action programme on job market trends. The work reviews the situation in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom. The "alternative" sector has probably created several tens of thousands of jobs, but there is some concern about a possible "recovery process" by the public authorities.

**Les jeunes: la transmission** in the "Cahiers du Grif" series went to press in Winter 1986, when France was witnessing a new round of student protest. The Cahiers try to analyse the similarities and differences between older generations and this new generation that is beginning to make itself seen and heard. Its epigraph is a quotation from Hannah Arendt: "from the point of view of new generations, no matter how modern the values and ideas of the adult world may be, they are always older than their own".

**Useful address:** Cahiers du Grif, 29 rue Blanche, 1050 Brussels

**Measuring the economic role of women:** published by the International Labour Office (1211 Geneva 22) and compiled by Richard Anker and Catherine Hein, begins with a definition of work and moves on to describe the role of the female labour force in developing countries, paid work in the home, the sexual division of labour in the Third World agriculture and the invisible labour of women in Nigeria.

**Women in Small Business**, by Rick Donckels and Jane M. Meyer and published by Van Gorum and Co (38 Industrieweg, 9400 Asse), examines the situation of women in small and medium-size businesses in Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

**Frauen in öffentlichen Dienst** is a lengthy report in two parts (one consisting entirely of figures) drafted by Barbara Leutner for Cologne's Equality Office. It gives an in-depth analysis of the position of women in local administration in Cologne.

**Useful address:** Stadt Köln, Oberstadtdirektor Kurt Rossa  
Gleichstellungsstelle, 7 Markmansgasse, 5000 Cologne 1

**Women 2000** (Branch for the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Vienna International Centre, PO Box 500, 1400 Vienna) has published a work on the running of the United Nations to familiarize readers with the complex structure of the organization and help them make use of its services. Its publication Women News contains a fairly full list of UN publications of interest to women.

# EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Commission of the European Communities

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